

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 03243 291509Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----114331 291512Z /45
O 291435Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1904

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3243

EXDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR WEST NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, SA, US
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR WEST'S CONSULTATION: AIRCRAFT PACKAGE

REF: STATE 107361

1. AMBASSADOR WEST, ACCOMPANIED BY ISA SABBAGH AND DANIELS, MET WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD ON APRIL 28 AT HIS JIDDA RESIDENCE. H.R.H. CROWN PRINCE FAHD WAS INFORMED THAT AMBASSADOR WAS BEING CALLED TO WASHINGTON ON VERY SHORT NOTICE TO HELP WHERE POSSIBLE IN THE MATTER OF F-15 SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA. IN THIS CONNECTION, AMBASSADOR WEST NOTED THAT USG HAD POSED THE DESIRABILITY OF SAG SENDING TO WASHINGTON A SAUDI REPRESENTATIVE WITH DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY, AND WONDERED IF IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR PRINCE TURKI AL FAISAL TO BE PRESENT. THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT PRINCE TURKI WAS SPECIFICALLY SUGGESTED BECAUSE OF HIS VERY EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE ON HIS MOST RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

2. AMBASSADOR WEST REMARKED THAT SAUDI NORMS OF PROTOCOL MIGHT HAVE BEEN BRUISED SLIGHTLY BY THE SUGGESTION, OBSERVING THAT SAUDI AMBASSADOR ALI REZA WAS, OF COURSE, THE CHIEF SPOKESMAN FOR THE SAG BEFORE THE WHITE HOUSE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JIDDA 03243 291509Z

AMBASSADOR WEST ASKED THE CROWN PRINCE IF AMBASSADOR ALI REZA MIGHT BE BOTHERED BY THE SUGGESTION. CROWN PRINCE REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE SO, AND ASKED ABOUT THE TIMING OF THE PROPOSED VISIT. AMBASSADOR WEST REPLIED THAT IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF TURKI COULD BE IN WASHINGTON WITHIN THE NEXT 7-8 DAYS AS THERE WAS LIKELIHOOD OF A VOTE IN COMMITTEE DURING EARLY MAY.

3. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR WEST AND EMBOFFS DID NOT SENSE THAT FAHD'S SENSIBILITIES HAD BEEN IRRITATED BY THE SUGGESTION THAT A SENIOR SAUDI REPRESENTATIVE WITH DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY BE AVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON DURING THE CRITICAL DAYS OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON F-15'S. SUBSEQUENT TO MEETING WITH CROWN PRINCE, AMBASSADOR WEST SPOKE BY TELEPHONE AT LENGTH TO FONMIN SAUDI AL-FAISAL AND TO PRINCE TURKI AL-FAISAL, WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY WOULD NOT OPPOSE THIS SUGGESTION IF IT CAME FROM ALI REZA. OUR JUDGMENT IS THAT THE SAG WOULD SEND PRINCE TURKI IN RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTION TO THAT EFFECT, ESPECIALLY IF RELAYED THROUGH AMBASSADOR ALI REZA, WHO, IT SHOULD ALWAYS BE NOTED WITH PLEASING DELICACY, IS THE CHIEF SPOKESMAN FOR THE SAG IN WASHINGTON. AMBASSADOR ALI REZA, WE FEEL, WOULD GLADLY AGREE (BECAUSE HE COULD CLAIM CREDIT FOR IT) TO INITIATING THE SUGGESTION HIMSELF WITH HIS GOVERNMENT, SPECIFICALLY RECOMMENDING THAT PRINCE TURKI, "WHO ACQUITTED HIMSELF SO ADMIRABLY" DURING H.R.H.'S MOST RECENT VISIT, BE DISPATCHED TO WASHINGTON FOR A REPEAT, AND PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT, PERFORMANCE, THUS CONTRIBUTING TO THE TOTALITY OF EFFORTS BY ALL CONCERNED TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS ENDEAVOR.

DANIELS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JIDDA03243
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780184-0071
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978042/aaaaabfn.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d376bca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 107361
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2856867
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR WEST'S CONSULTATION: AIRCRAFT PACKAGE
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, SA, US, (WEST, JOHN C), (SABBAGH, ISA), (FAHD, PRINCE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d376bca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014